

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey, who sits on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and has helped lead renewable energy efforts in Congress, today released the following statement regarding the release of the United States Air Force's plan for how it will use energy during 2010. The plan calls for a broad policy based on reducing demand, increasing supply and changing the energy culture at the service. Detail of the plan can be found at: www.safie.hq.af.mil/esoh/index.asp

"After many years as the largest consumer of energy in the world, the Pentagon is beginning to more fully understand just how important energy is to our national security. The Air Force, which is the Pentagon's biggest energy user, has recognized this and is making important investments in improving efficiency, establishing the supply of renewable energy, and developing new technology to meet the service's energy needs. I am particularly impressed with the Air Force's dedication to solar power, including the recent announcement that they will build the largest crystalline photovoltaic solar array in North America on Edwards Air Force Base in California.

"Increasing the use of renewable energy at the Department of Defense, will reduce our dependence on volatile oil producing regions of the world, make our bases less vulnerable to grid failure, save taxpayer dollars and ensure that our nation's military is positioned to remain the most effective force in the world. I commend the Air Force's energy plan for 2010 and its contribution to the nation's energy security."